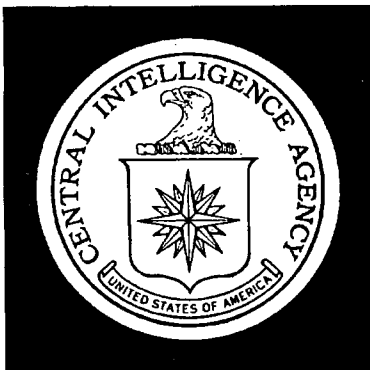


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

WEEKLY SUMMARY

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44

5 December 1969
No. 0399/69

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CONDITIONS FOR AMERICAN DESERTERS IN SWEDEN IMPROVE

Efforts to integrate American expatriates into Swedish society are showing signs of success.

Of the 294 military absentees and war resisters currently registered with the Swedish Immigration Board, 104 have steady jobs, 156 are studying, 15 are unemployed, 12 are under medical or psychiatric care, and seven are in jail, mostly for narcotics offenses. Of those studying, most are enrolled in language classes.

The stream of deserters and draft dodgers began in December 1967 when four sailors left their ship in Tokyo and traveled to Stockholm. After some hesitation Sweden decided to grant them asylum, but on humanitarian, not political grounds, in line with a long Swedish tradition of providing a haven for refugees.

Of the 378 Americans who have applied for asylum in the last two years, 325 were granted permission to stay, 15 were refused, and another 15 are currently under consideration. An estimated 30 to 40 left the country either before or after their applications were processed, and an additional number have entered and left Sweden without coming to the attention of the police or immigration authorities. It is estimated that 148 men defected from units in West Germany, 142 arrived directly from the United States, while 20 came from Vietnam. The balance came via Canada,

Cuba, and several West European countries.

Because most arrive without skills or knowledge of the Swedish language, the deserters are initially employed in positions such as truckdriver assistants or dishwashers, and those who cannot find work are granted \$17 a week, as well as food, lodging, and clothes. Once the deserter gets past the initial trauma of life in exile, he is encouraged to sign up for any of a wide variety of programs designed to help him find a place in society. Implied in the official policy of swift integration is a desire to prevent formation of an expatriate fraternity, highly visible and capable of embarrassing the government.

A small number of war resisters grouped in the American Deserters Committee has, with the assistance of the radical left in Sweden, attracted considerable publicity by refusing to subscribe to the government's effort to integrate them. Instead they have taken part in, or promoted, demonstrations, films, lectures, and other agitational work in Sweden and the other Nordic countries.

This activity, coupled with the publicity given to some deserters' scrapes with the law and their generally alien appearance, has stiffened the general Swedish reserve toward foreigners. To overcome this the State Immigration Board has undertaken an extensive community relations program.

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